that the different kinds of taxation provided in the new Municipal Regulation, if given effect to, would be a source of great hardship to the people. He asserted that the resolutions of the Municipal Conference held on the 18th September 1920, were not binding on the non-official councillors, as the Conference did not include their chosen representatives. Consequently, the Member represented that the decision of the Mavelikara Municipality to impose a minimum house-tax of 3 per cent. in pursuance of the resolution of the Municipal Conference was not binding on the people who were against the levy of any kind of taxation; as a matter of fact the citizens of that town were too poor to bear such taxation. In conclusion, the Member requested that minor Municipalities might be exempted from the imposition of the taxes referred to in the Municipal Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Municipal administration is not imposed as a compulsion. I think the Member is labouring under a mistake. If any municipal body feels that there is no need for its existence, it may say: 'we do not want the institution and so we wish to dissolve', and the matter will certainly be considered by Government.

90. Need for Government help for the improvement of sanitation in the town of Changanachery.

Mr. M. Rajendra Rao (Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery) represented that the sanitation of the public vegetable market of Changanachery which was the most important market in the whole State was unsatisfactory, that there was not sufficient space in the premises for holding the market, that even after the levy of the taxes under the Municipal Regulation, the Municipality would not be in a position to finance such undertakings as the improvement of the market, etc., and that it was imperative that Government should come to the rescue of the Municipality. The question of adding on to the premises of the market the space occupied by the Travellers' Bungalow, was represented at the 16th session of the Assembly, and the Dewan had replied that there was no objection to utilise the space occupied by the Travellers' Bungalow for the market, if it was decided to shift the Travellers' Bungalow from its present site. The Member prayed that early steps be taken for shifting the Travellers' Bungalow from its present site and that the site of the Travellers' Bungalow as well as certain other lands referred to in a sketch presented by him be acquired on payment of compensation and utilised for extending the premises of the market.

The Member next stated that it was very necessary to improve the warehouse landing to the south of the market to suit the convenience of the large number of *valloms* approaching the market. This subject also had been brought forward at the last session of the Assembly and a report had been called for from the Municipality which had been sent up. He prayed that the needful might be done soon.

The Member also drew attention to the urgent necessity of improving certain public tanks in the town. The most important of those and the one used by all classes of people was the Poovakattu *Chira* covering an area of about 8 acres. The subject of improving that tank was brought forward at the 11th and 12th sessions of the Assembly and the matter was referred by Government to the Chief Engineer. In accordance with the opinion of the Chief Engineer, Government passed final orders in G. O. No. P. W. 5796/794/15 dated the 12th September 1916 that the tank need not be improved. He then pointed out that the above decision was unsatisfactory, that the Municipality was not in a position to undertake the work, and that the work was not likely to require more than Rs. 8,000 and prayed that Government be pleased to undertake the work as early as possible. He did not approve of the attitude of Government in holding that the improvements of tanks, etc., within municipal limits should be attended to by the Municipalities concerned, especially at the present stage when the municipal system had only been just inaugurated.

For the improvement of communications in the town, the Member suggested that certain canals might be widened by acquiring lands and that certain lanes might be widened and improved by the provision of drains.

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Dewan's reply.—However much the policy of Government to withdraw gradually from the expenditure connected with the improvement of towns might be criticised, Government must adhere to it. This policy is accepted all the world over and is definitely laid down in the new Municipal Regulation. If any particular improvement is beyond the resources of a particular Municipality, Government may be expected to render some help, but it is the duty of the Municipalities to carry out ordinary improvements themselves as far as possible. We can examine these requests only in the light of that policy.

91. The present requirements of the Municipal Council, Vaikam.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam) first urged the necessity for improving the Kaniyanthodu and said that the required land could be had without payment of compensation and that Government should undertake the deepening of the canal. He next referred to the improvement of the Perunchilavu, Kadichalai and Anthakara thodus in the interests of agriculture and transport. He also referred to the dangerous condition of the bridge over the Puthenthodu and prayed for its early repair. His next request was for the construction of two additional canals across the town, opening into the Vembanad lake, in the interests of sanitation and of trade. Lastly, he prayed for the transfer to the Municipality of the four roads leading from the Vaikam temple together with the maintenance grant for the same.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the works referred to, the Member will do well to show them to me when I next visit the place. As for the transfer of major roads and their maintenance grants to the Municipality, the matter will be considered when the Municipality sends up its resolution on the subject.

92. Public health in Travancore, its present condition and the need for investigation and the devising of remedial measures.

Mr. K. N. Padmanabhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapurom) observed that the vital statistics as at present prepared in the State were unreliable. They were also inadequate in that they did not contain information about the causes of death from diseases other than cholera and small-pox. Coming to the Medical department, he pointed out that the accommodation in hospitals was poor and the attention given to out-patients was inadequate. He suggested that these defects should be removed and that every hospital furnished with a laboratory to attend to bacteriological and pathological work. The Member deplored the absence of a sufficient number of graduates in the Sanitary department and said that the work turned out by that department was quite unsatisfactory.

The Member complained that the Municipalities were also not giving adequate attention in the matter of sanitation and prevention of diseases. Several kinds of diseases had come to stay in most of the municipal towns; scarcity of water was a standing grievance. The situation, in his opinion, was serious and immediate steps should be taken to remedy the evils. He prayed Government to take up the question of sanitation of schools and as a first step he suggested periodical medical inspection of school children. He also urged the establishment of a large number of maternity and children's hospitals all over the State. In conclusion, the Member drew the attention of Government to the following suggestions:—

1. Drinking should be discouraged.
2. Hotels, tea shops, &c., should be inspected and kept under control.
3. Vaccination should be made compulsory.
4. Beggars should not be allowed to roam about.
5. Work in the public offices should not be done late in the evening.

Dewan's reply.—You have traversed the whole field of public health and medical aid. I must say that you have drawn too gloomy a picture and that your state of mind is such that anything said on behalf of Government would not appeal to you. You probably think that no good can come out of Government. Government cannot claim perfection and the improvement of public health involves a perpetual struggle against ignorance and against those unclean propensitites to which

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